



September, 2008

Dear Riverside Community Service Partner:

The City of Riverside in collaboration with the County of Riverside and the Riverside Homeless Care Network will hold its third annual Project Homeless Connect event on **Thursday, November 20th** at the **Riverside Homeless Service Campus** located at Massachusetts Ave. and Hulen Place. Riverside will join dozens of cities across the country in conducting this innovative homeless service event as part of the **National Project Homeless Connect project**, a 1-day, 1-stop consumer-focused activity where scores of community service providers and volunteers are mobilized in one setting to assist hundreds of homeless individuals with real-time access to direct services and on-the-spot results.

Project Homeless Connect events held across the country not only provide homeless individuals with access to direct services, but they have also proven to be “life-changing” experiences for the hundreds of volunteers who engage in direct and personal interactions with people in need and witness the tangible results of their efforts right on-the-spot. Activities being planned for **Riverside Project Homeless Connect III** include direct service engagement in the areas of housing assistance, medical screening, counseling and treatment services, employment services, benefits enrollment, family services and personal care services such as showers, haircuts, spiritual counseling and a hot meal. It is important to understand that this is not an information and referral event. The goal of Project Homeless Connect is to provide real-time access to specific programs and activities so that participants leave directly “connected” to actual services that help meet their specific identified needs.

In order to make this a truly successful, solution-oriented event, we need **YOUR** participation. We are seeking service organizations and community volunteers to assist in a variety of ways including providing direct, on-site access to specific services during the event or volunteering time on the day of the event serving in one of the many hospitality roles. In addition, we are seeking financial contributions as well as donations of food items, hygiene products and other items that may be useful on the day of the event. Contributions made to this event are tax deductible.

Please fill out one of the two forms attached to this letter – the Service Participant Form or the Volunteer Participant Form and let us know how you will be participating on the day of the event. Don't worry if you are not yet certain how you can help. Just share with us your desire to serve and we will find ways to plug you in. There are more than enough ways that we can put your passion to serve to good use. The Volunteer Form also includes space to identify any financial or resource contribution you may wish to make for the event. As the event date approaches, we will be sending you additional communications providing more directions for your participation in this special event. There will be also be a **Service Provider/Volunteer Orientation** held prior to the event to help everyone get fully plugged in to the plans for the day.

Thank you in advance for your interest in participation in helping to “end homelessness in our community.” If you have questions or need additional information on this event, please contact:

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To learn more about National Project Homeless Connect, go to www.usich.gov and click on the link to National Project Homeless Connect.

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